City of San Diego
Engineering & Capital Projects
Transportation and Drainage
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La Jolla area PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2003

Ardath Road Project Water and Sewer Update

Water and sewer main replacement along sections of La Jolla Shores Drive, Torrey Pines Road, Ardath Road, Hidden Valley Road and Ardath Access Road is almost complete. TC Construction, the contractor for this portion of the project, has installed 75 percent of the water main and nearly all of the sewer main within the project area. All pipeline replacement is anticipated to be complete by the end of February.

To prevent further breaks and deterioration of pipelines due to age, quality, and usage, the replacement of pipelines were needed. Pipelines were orginally installed in the 1920s. The new water main will secure a stable flow of drinking water to the community and the new sewer main will improve the overall efficiency of the area's wastewater system.

The water and sewer work is being conducted concurrently with the road realignment work in order to stay within a timeline of one year and to also prevent the roads from being torn up twice. Water and sewer work is being conducted from the hours of 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. ■

Picture right: View of sewer work along Torrey Pines Road.

Investing in Infrastructure to Protect Our Beaches

By Councilman Scott Peters

La Jolla's quality of life is linked to the ocean. That is why when I was elected I made it a top priority to clean up our beaches and bays, and invest in the infrastructure that would be effective in achieving that goal. Through an aggressive public outreach campaign and a $900 million program to upgrade our sewer system, we have made tremendous gains in the last two years. Sewer spills are down 40% from 2002, and beach closures and postings are down 45%. Our strategy is working and I will continue to work hard to achieve further gains.

I am pleased to announce that we will be constructing 16 new low-flow diversion systems to protect water quality along the La Jolla coastline beginning this Spring. Diversion systems will be constructed along Neptune Place near Windansea Beach, Childrens' Pool, La Jolla Shores and along Coast Boulevard. Diversion systems take polluted storm drain water and divert it away from the beach and into the sewer system for treatment.

These systems divert polluted run-off and safeguard against sewage spills. When sewer pipes break and sewage flows onto the street it enters the storm drain system. If the sewage enters a storm drain with a diversion system, the system is able to put the sewage back into the sewer before it can hit the beach. The six systems currently operating along the La Jolla coast have caught 80% of the sewage spills that have occurred in La Jolla and kept them from fouling our beaches.

To learn more about our strategy and comittment to clean water, please go to my website at www.sandiego.gov/cd1. ■

Torrey Pines Road/La Jolla Boulevard Pipleine Replacement Phase II

In August 2002, the City of San Diego completed construction on the Torrey Pines Pipeline Project Phase I, part of the La Jolla Area Public Improvements Projects. These projects include a series of pipeline replacement projects that will be completed in three phases. The pipeline replacement projects are being expedited due to the recent history of breaks and the deterioration of the main due to age, use and corrosive soils.

The pipeline replacement projects will provide a needed backup supply of water, increase water delivery capacity and enhance service reliability for residents. The construction team is working closely with the community, including business owners and residents to ensure these complex projects are completed as smoothly as possible.

The Torrey Pines Road/La Jolla Boulevard Pipeline Replacement Phase II is scheduled to begin in fall 2004 and is expected to be completed in summer 2006. The total cost of the project is approximately $6.3 million and will be funded by water rates, revenue bonds and capacity charges.

Construction on the La Jolla Area Public Improvement Projects are scheduled to be completed in 2008. ■

Project Information

Log on to www.sandiego.gov/ardathroad/ to read more about the project, access project maps, and to read weekly email updates on construction work. Or call the project information line at 619-533-7539.

Torrey Pines Trees Update

As many community members have noticed, the health of the trees has been precarious during this project. The information below is provided to update the community on the actions and considerations the project team has taken since the Fall 02 newsletter was distributed.

Telliard Construction, the contractor for the removal and replanting of the trees, has on their team a consulting arborist, Bob Bichowsky. The arborist is monitoring and coordinating tree care decisions with the project team. Along with San Diego's dry conditions, several factors contribute to the status of the trees' health including the inability to obtain a larger root ball when removed, their watering schedule, and attacks by bark borers.

The Size of the Root Ball

One of the team's first considerations was to plan how to remove and relocate the trees. The size of the root ball varied for each tree depending on their different locations and proximities to the street and other trees.

The Watering Schedule

Once the trees were removed, their maintenance program became the focus of the team. Torrey Pines trees are sensitive both to over watering and under watering. As such, the contractor and arborist continue to regularly inspect and check the moisture content of the soil to make sure that the trees are receiving adequate amounts of water through a temporary irrigation system. Additionally, the contractor has created drain systems for the trees that are planted in the ground as a proactive measure to a possible rainy season. This system will prevent the accumulation of surface water which could cause the trees harm from over watering or ponding of water.

The Bark Borers

Unfortunately, in mid-April of 2002, bark borers, opportunistic beetles that attack trees under stress, were noticed on some of the trees. In efforts to control bark borers, an insecticide was applied to the trees. The trees have also been treated with fertilizer and root stimulants to facilitate recovery and growth. Root probes are regularly performed to check for disease and root rot.

Next Steps

The City and Contractor have obtained an opinion from arborist Bob Walton. He has concurred with Bichowksy's overall assessment that at least half of the trees do not appear to be recovering. Although recommendations are not final, both arborists have identified the possibility that those trees did not survive the transplant and relocation process. Removal of some trees is an option. The next steps are to evaluate options and then decide what steps will be the most beneficial to the individual tree as well as for the trees as a collective group.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the community acts of goodwill. In response to San Diego Union-Tribune columnist Dianne Bell's article about the trees in October, several community members offered to donate a Torrey Pines tree for the landscaping phase. The project team will research, compare costs, and take into account the feasibility for tree survival of the various options. ■

Nighttime Noise Mitigation

In coordination with the City of San Diego's Water Department, the replacement of water and sewer mains were incorporated into the Ardath Road Realignment Project. Due to the likelihood of breaks and deterioration, the water and sewer replacement plan was developed to prevent this from occurring and causing further inconveniences. While the construction itself has its own challenges with the homes and businesses being directly adjacent to the work area and the traffic, the project team is committed to mitigating the noise levels of construction.

The project team understands the temporary inconveniences of night work and is working to mitigate the noise impacts of construction. TC Construction implemented a City approved noise abatement plan and attempted to receive a Cal-OSHA variance for a radar and strobe light alternative to back-up beeping alarms.

The noise abatement plan was developed to control and mitigate nighttime construction noise impacts associated with the project. The plan provides a variety of methods to reduce noise including a requirement that a certified noise specialist be on-site at all times during the night to record and verify that the team adheres to noise limitations.

Noise Mitigation, Continued from page 2

Other noise mitigation strategies include modified demolition techniques, altered work sequences, temporary sound barriers, quieted air compressors and additional mufflers. Activities such as the removal of trench plates, asphalt grinding, saw cutting, delivery of materials and traffic control set-up will be done before 10 p.m. Temporary sound barriers will be set-up around the equipment and work zones to lessen as much noise as possible. Lights at the staging area and workstations are being directed away from nearby homes. Portable, easily movable acoustical barrier panels are positioned to reduce noise from excavators, trucks, and support equipment as the construction moves.

Cal-OSHA Update

Back-up beeping alarms are mandated by Cal-OSHA safety regulations to protect the safety of construction workers. The project team understands the noise disruption related to alarms, and has implemented Smart Alarms systems on several pieces of their equipment. The Smart Alarm incorporates a radar system that controls the beeping level to 5 decibels over ambient noise. The project team has also submitted a request to Cal-OSHA for a variance to use strobe lights in lieu of back-up beeping alarms, but Cal-OSHA has rejected this request. The team tried again with a request to use a combination of strobe lights and a radar system, but this request was still not approved by Cal-OSHA. The process is a strict and lengthy one, but the project team has been actively pursuing the variance with additional support from the office of Councilman Scott Peters. ■

Picture bottom left: View of road work on westbound Torrey Pines Road.

Picture bottom right: View of road work at Ardath Road and Torrey Pines Road adjacent to fire station.

Road Construction Update

The main focus of the Ardath Road project is the creation of the new intersection at Ardath Road, Torrey Pines, and Hidden Valley Road. This new intersection will help to lessen u-turns, merges,and traffic back-ups at the La Jolla Shores Drive intersection by providing more options for navigating through Ardath Road, Torrey Pines Toad, and Hidden Valley Road without accessing the La Jolla Shores Drive intersection. Additionally, improvements for sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and roads within the project area are incorporated in the daytime construction activities. Water and sewer replacement work as well as landscaping are included in the overall project.

During the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., West Coast General has been working on the road realignment and reconfiguration of Ardath Road, Torrey Pines Road, Hidden Valley Road, and La Jolla Shores Drive. This portion of the project is 40 percent complete and the team is on schedule to substantially complete the roads by September 2003.

The project team has already constructed curbs and gutters along the south side of Ardath Road and Torrey Pines Road east of La Jolla Shores Drive, constructed the S-curve that connects Hidden Valley Road and Ardath (frontage) Road, and completed the wall at the fire station. Currently, the team is conducting curb and gutter work along the fire station property and is working to improve the Ardath (frontage) Road entrance to Ardath (access) Road.

Major work that still remains: creation of the new signalized intersection at Hidden Valley Road, Torrey Pines Road, and Ardath Road; creation of the cul-de-sac at the Childrens School; installation of traffic lights; paving and striping; and landscaping. ■